JOURNAL
OF THE
WASHINGTON ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

VOL. 13 JUNE 4, 1923 No. 11

BOTANY.—Dissanthelium, *an American genus of grasses.* A. S. HITCHCOCK, Bureau of Plant Industry.

The genus *Dissanthelium* is interesting because of the peculiar distribution of its three species and because of the confused nomenclature of the original Peruvian species.

Of the three species now referred to this genus, two are found in the Andes of Peru and Bolivia, one occurring also in Mexico, and a third is confined to islands off the southern coast of California.

The genus was originally described by Trinius in 1836, based upon a single species, *D. supinum*, from Peru, "in frigidissimis ad Cerro de Pasco (America calidiore, *Poeppig*)," and is characterized by the two awnless florets, exceeded by the equal glumes. Cerro de Pasco is north of Lima.

The California species is an annual (30 to 40 cm. tall), with flat blades, growing at low altitudes. The other two species are dwarf alpine plants with narrow often folded or involute blades, *D. calycinum* being a cespitose perennial and *D. minimum* an annual.

The type species of the genus was first described by Presl under *Brizopyrum* and was soon after transferred to *Poa* by Kunth, apparently without having seen the plant. The writer examined the type specimen of Presl's species at the herbarium of the German University in Prague and found that it was the same as the type of Trinius's species, which he examined in the herbarium of the Academy of Sciences at St. Petersburg. On grounds of priority the older name must be adopted. The second Peruvian species was first given a name by Steudel without description and the plant was distributed by Hohenacker in his exsiccatae (Lechler, Plantae Peruvianae, no. 1836) as *Vilfa macusaniensis* Steud. Later Pilger described the same species as *Dissanthelium minimum*, basing it on Weberbauer's no. 5451 from Peru.

The synonymy of the species is given below:

1. DISSANTHELIUM CALIFORNICUM (Nutt.) Benth. in Hook. Icon. Pl. III. 4: 56. *pl. 1375*. 1881. Based on the next.
   Stenochloa californica Nutt. Journ. Acad. Phila. II. 1: 189. 1848. Type from Santa Catalina Island, *Gambel.*

Dr. B. L. Robinson has kindly sent to the U. S. National Herbarium a tracing of the type specimen in the Gray Herbarium and a fragment of the inflorescence. The specimen is about 25 cm. tall but without the roots, bearing three flat, lax blades and a narrow panicle 10 cm. long. One of the spikelets in the fragment sent contains three florets. The label reads, "**Stenochloa poaeoides.* Catalina, Calif." The asterisk indicates a new species, according to Nuttall's usual method, but the specific name was changed in publication to *californica.* This species does not appear to be closely related to the other two, but it does not seem to be sufficiently different to constitute a distinct genus.

The only specimen in the U. S. National Herbarium is from San Clemente Island, California (*Trask* 324). The specimen from Tassajara Hot Springs (*Elmer* 3317), cited in Jepson's Flora of California (1:141. 1912), proves to be *Poa howellii* Vasey & Scribn.

2. **Dissanthelium calycilum** (Presl) Hitchc.
   Brizopyrum calycinum Presl, Rel. Haenk. 1: 281. 1830. Locality not known but probably Peru.
   Poa calycina Kunth, Rév. Gram. 1: Suppl. XXVIII. 1834. Based on the preceding.
   Dissanthelium supinum Trin. Linnaea 10: 305. 1836. The type from Cerro de Pasco, Peru.
   Deschampsia mathewsii Ball, Journ. Linn. Soc. Bot. 22: 60. 1885. Type from the Peruvian Andes, collected by Mathews.
   Dissanthelium sclerochloides Fourn. Mex. Pl. 2: 112. 1886. Fournier mentions two specimens, Nevada de Toluca, Hahn, and San Luis de Potosí, *Virlet* 1434, neither of which I have seen.

In the U. S. National Herbarium are the following specimens of this species: MEXICO: Nevada de Toluca, *Pringle* 4222; Ixtaccihuatl, *Purpus* 1633. PERU: Piñasniocj, *Cook & Gilbert* 1297, 1305; Casapalta, *Ball* in 1882 (a fragment from a duplicate type in the Gray Herbarium). BOLIVIA: Without locality, *Bang* 1873.

3. DISSANTHELIUM MINIMUM Pilger, Bot. Jahrb. Engler 56: Beibl. 123: 28. 1920. The type from the mountains of Peru, between Pisco and Ayacucho (*Weberbauer* 5451).
   Vilfa macusaniensis Steud.; Lechl. Berb. Amer. Austr. 56. 1857 (*nomen nudum*). This work is primarily an account of the genus *Berberis* in South America. Appended to this is a list of the plants collected in South America by Lechler, classified according to countries, each name followed by the number of the species in Lechler's exsiccatae as issued by Hohenacker. In this case the name is under the Peruvian collection and the number is 1836.

Graminastrum macusaniense Krause, Beihefte Bot. Centralbl. **32**: 348. 1914. This name is based on *Vilfa macusaniensis* Steudel. The generic name used had not previously been published. There is no generic description.

In the U. S. National Herbarium there are two specimens, one a part of the type of *D. minimum* (*Weberbauer* 5451) kindly sent by Dr. Pilger, the other a specimen of Lechler's 1836, contributed from the Vienna Herbarium by Dr. Zahlbruckner.

ZOOLOGY.—*A new* Anolis *from Haiti.* Doris M. Cochran, U. S. National Museum. (Communicated by Dr. L. Stejneger.)

In a collection of reptiles made in Haiti by the late J. B. Henderson and Dr. Paul Bartsch during their expedition of 1917, there is a specimen of a very handsome *Anolis*, which seems to represent a species as yet undescribed.

Anolis hendersoni, new species

Diagnosis.—Dorsal scales granular, the 4 or 5 median rows slightly enlarged; length of tibia much less than distance between tip of snout and ear; ventrals smooth; tail slightly compressed, nearly three times the length of head and body.

Type.—Adult male, U. S. N. M. No. 59210; Petionville, Haiti; J. B. Henderson and Dr. Paul Bartsch, collectors; April 1, 1917.

Description.—Head elongate, its greatest width contained twice in distance from ear to tip of snout; nostrils lateral, their distance from tip of snout equalling one-sixteenth of head-length; top of head with two very low, diverging frontal ridges, reaching nearly to nostrils and enclosing an elongate depression; head-scales without keels, except the 7 or 8 enlarged supraoculars, which have blunt keels; rostral rather large, its superior border curved; 6 or 7 narrow scales in a row between nostrils; supraorbital semicircles composed of 5 large scales diminishing in size posteriorly, separated from each other in the median line by a single row of small scales, and from supraoculars by one row of very small scales; occipital considerably smaller than ear-opening, separated from supraorbital semicircles by about 4 rows of scales; 6 elongate scales on canthus rostralis; superciliary ridge consisting of one extremely long shield and some granules; loreal rows 6 or 7; scales of suborbital semicircles bluntly keeled, broadly in contact with supralabials; 6 supralabials to a point below center of eye; 7 lower labials; one pair of mental shields, wider than the rostral; temporal granules about the size of laterals; a well-marked series of small scales forming the supratemporal line; a distinct dermal fold from occiput to tail, covered by 4 or 5 rows of enlarged granular scales, with the median row keeled; the remaining dorsal scales granular; the laterals extremely minute; granules on nuchal region between occiput and shoulders coarse, nearly as large as the largest dorsals; ventral scales moderately large, flat, transversely oblong or pentagonal; scales on throat and breast smaller and slightly keeled; fore legs with small keeled scales above; anterior scales of femur enlarged, keeled, gradually diminishing posteriorly and below; scales covering hands and feet above multicarinate; digital expansion wide, 35 lamellae under fourth toe and 17 under fourth finger; tail long, very slightly compressed, without verticils or serrated edge;